



June 22, 2026

Hon. Lisa Kersavage

Chair

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
253 Broadway, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: 601 west 114th Street – Accessible Ramp

Dear Chair Kersavage,

At its regularly scheduled General Board Meeting held on Thursday, June 18, 2026, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 passed the following resolution regarding **601 West 114th Street – Accessible Ramp** by unanimous consent, with 35 members present:

WHEREAS, 601 West 114th Street is home to a historic church and community institution that has long served residents of Morningside Heights and the surrounding neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the institution provides valuable educational, cultural, charitable, and community programming that benefits residents of all ages and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Manhattan Community Board 9 wishes to acknowledge and commend the organization for its longstanding commitment to serving the community and for its efforts to ensure its facilities remain welcoming and accessible to all; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project would construct a new accessible entrance ramp to bring the building into compliance with modern accessibility standards—as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, New York City Building Code and Rules, New York City Administrative Code, and ICC A117.1 Accessibility Standard—so as to improve access for individuals with disabilities, older adults, families with strollers, and others with mobility challenges; and

WHEREAS, Community Board 9 supports efforts to ensure that public-facing institutions within the district are accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to all residents and visitors regardless of age or mobility; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ramp has been carefully designed to fit within the existing conditions of the site while maintaining adequate pedestrian circulation along the sidewalk; and

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WHEREAS, the existing railings proposed for removal are non-original features and do not contribute significantly to the historic fabric of the building; and

WHEREAS, the project includes new stairs and associated features designed to match the existing architectural character of the entrance; and

WHEREAS, the proposed intervention is modest in scale, compatible with the historic character of the building, and balances preservation goals with the important public interest of providing equitable access to a community-serving institution; and

WHEREAS, similar accessibility improvements have been successfully incorporated into historic religious and institutional buildings throughout New York City, demonstrating that accessibility and historic preservation can coexist; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 9 supports the application for the construction of an accessible ramp at 601 West 114th Street, which is compliant with the aforesaid laws, rules, and regulations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Community Board 9 commends the applicant for advancing accessibility improvements while respecting the historic character of the building; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Community Board 9 encourages continued efforts to ensure that historic community institutions remain accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to all members of the public.

If you have any questions and/or further information is needed, please do not hesitate contacting me or District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (646) 355-3172.

Sincerely,



Victor Edwards

Chair

cc: Hon. Zohran Mamdani, Mayor
Hon. Mark Levine, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Cordell Cleare, New York State Senate
Hon. Micah Lasher, Assembly Member
Hon. Jordan J.D. Wright, Assembly Member
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Shaun Abreu, City Council Member

Hon. Lisa Kersavage

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Hon. Yusef Salaam, City Council Member

Mr. Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corporation

Kim Knugent, MCB9



June 23, 2026

Jeanny Pak, Interim President & CEO

New York City Economic Development Corporation
One Liberty Plaza, 165 Broadway, New York, NY 10006

Dear Interim President Jeanny Pak,

At its regularly scheduled **General Board Meeting held on Thursday, June 18, 2026**, Manhattan **Community Board No. 9** passed the following **Resolution re: The Harlem Rocket**, by **unanimous consent**, with **35 members present**:

We write today to voice our strong support for the proposal currently before the New York City Economic Development Corporation to construct a floating dock and gangway landing at the West Harlem Piers on West 125th Street for use by Harlem Rocket. The proposed gangway would be four feet wide and sixty feet long, while the floating dock would be twelve feet wide and seventy feet long along the Hudson River. If approved, this project would allow Harlem Rocket to provide multiple daily cultural and historic tours up the Hudson River to the northern tip of Manhattan and Spuyten Duyvil, as well as tours south to the Statue of Liberty area and back.

Harlem Rocket is the first Black-owned, locally employed, Harlem-based sightseeing boat tour of its kind. Its mission is to share the rich history of the diverse communities that have shaped Upper Manhattan, particularly Harlem, Washington Heights, and the neighborhoods along the Hudson waterfront. By connecting visitors and residents to these stories, Harlem Rocket offers a unique cultural and educational experience that celebrates New York City's heritage while fostering a deeper appreciation for the communities that continue to define it.

We believe this proposal presents a valuable opportunity to further activate the Harlem waterfront and advance many of the goals that have long guided the Economic Development Corporation's investments in New York City's shoreline. The project would increase visitation to West Harlem and encourage visitors to spend time exploring the neighborhood before and after their tours. This increased foot traffic would provide tangible benefits to local businesses throughout West Harlem, such as the Baylander and Dinosaur Bar-B-Que,

As a Black-owned business focused on showcasing the history and culture of Upper Manhattan, Harlem Rocket represents exactly the type of community-based enterprise that helps ensure economic development benefits local residents and strengthens neighborhood identity. The opportunity to expand its operations through a modest waterfront infrastructure investment would allow the company to grow, create additional employment opportunities, and continue serving as a cultural ambassador for the community.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the New York City Economic Development Corporation to approve Harlem Rocket's proposal. We believe it will deliver meaningful benefits to West Harlem, its

Jeanny Pak, Interim President & CEO

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residents, local businesses, and the many visitors who seek to learn more about the history and culture of Upper Manhattan.

If any further information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me, or our District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (646) 355-3172.

Sincerely,



Victor Edwards

Chair

cc: Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor
Hon. Anthony Delgado, Lt. Governor
Hon. Zohran Mamdani, Mayor
Hon. Letitia James, Attorney General
Hon. Mark Levine, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Cordell Cleare, New York State Senate
Hon. Chuck Schumer, New York State Senate
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Hon. Micah Lasher, Assembly Member
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Shaun Abreu, City Council Member
Hon. Yusef Salaam, City Council Member
Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, WHDC
Kim Nugent, CB9M



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
MANHATTAN**

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

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June 23rd, 2026

Hon. Shaun Abreu
Council Member
District 7
500 West 141st Street
New York, NY 10031

Re: Street Co-Naming of the pedestrian walkway between Amsterdam avenue and La Salle street in honor of Orsby “butch” Wroten.

Dear Council Member Abreu,

At its scheduled General Board Meeting held in hybrid, on Thursday, June 18th, 2026. Manhattan Community Board No. 9 passed the following Reso re: Street Co-Naming of the pedestrian walkway between Amsterdam avenue and La Salle street in honor of Orsby “butch” Wroten by vote of unanimous consent with 34 members present.

WHEREAS, Manhattan Community Board 9 seeks to recognize individuals whose service, leadership, and commitment have made significant and lasting contributions to the West Harlem community; and

WHEREAS, a proposal has been submitted to co-name the pedestrian walkway connecting Amsterdam Avenue and La Salle Street through the Grant Houses development in honor of Orsby Wroten, affectionately known throughout the community as "Butch" Wroten; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wroten was among the first six families to reside in the Grant Houses and became a lifelong advocate for the residents of the development and the broader West Harlem community; and

WHEREAS, for decades, Mr. Wroten dedicated himself to improving the living conditions, safety, and quality of life of Grant Houses residents, serving as a respected community organizer, tenant advocate, and trusted representative of his neighbors; and



WHEREAS, Mr. Wroten consistently worked to ensure that the concerns and needs of residents were heard by government agencies, elected officials, and housing authorities, helping to secure attention and resources for the community; and

WHEREAS, his tireless advocacy and leadership earned recognition from local media outlets, including New York television stations Channels 5 and 11, highlighting his commitment to public service and community empowerment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wroten's contributions have left a lasting legacy within the Grant Houses and throughout West Harlem, where he is remembered as a champion for residents and a steadfast voice for those often overlooked; and

WHEREAS, the proposed co-naming has received broad community support, including a petition signed by more than 200 residents and supporters, as well as the support of elected officials and community stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the proposal has been endorsed by Council Member Shaun Abreu and reflects the wishes of many current and former residents who seek to permanently commemorate Mr. Wroten's service and dedication;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 9 supports the co-naming of the pedestrian walkway between Amsterdam Avenue and La Salle Street through the Grant Houses development as "Orsby 'Butch' Wroten Way"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 9 respectfully requests that the New York City Council approve this street co-naming and that the appropriate City agencies take all actions required to implement this designation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Manhattan Community Board 9 recognizes and honors the enduring legacy of Orsby "Butch" Wroten, whose advocacy, leadership, and commitment to the residents of Grant Houses and West Harlem continue to serve as an example of community service and civic engagement.

If you have any questions and/or further information is needed, please do not hesitate contacting me or our District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (646)355-3172.



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Sincerely,

Victor Edwards
Chairperson

cc: Honorable Zohran Mamdani, Mayor
Honorable Mark Levine, NYC Comptroller
Honorable Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Cordell Cleare, NYS Senator, 30th Senatorial District
Honorable Micah C. Lasher, NYS Assemblyman, 69th Assembly District
Honorable Jordan J.G. Wright, NYS Assembly Member, 70th Assembly District
Honorable Al Taylor, NYS Assemblyman, 71st Assembly District
Honorable Shaun Abreu, Member of the NYC Council, 7th Council District
Honorable Yusef Salaam, Member NYC Council, 9th Council District
Mr. Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corp
Kim Knugent , MCB9